

► Davey McCann, forensic science specialist at the Kentucky State Police Central Forensic Laboratory, and the other three lab specialists process up to 20,000 DNA samples annually for law enforcement across the state.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

from those convicted that are included in the arrest statistics.

To process 360,000 additional samples per year would cost:

- \$1.4 million for testing kits
- \$7.2 million for reagents and consumables
- \$900,000 for equipment, maintenance and repairs
- \$66,000 for three new lab technicians for sample handling/receiving, data logging and expungement processing
- \$192,000 for three new forensic biologists
- \$32,000 for an additional lease or modification of current space

Total cost: \$9.7 million

Some states that are now collecting DNA from arrestees are doing so only from those arrested for felonies. Reaching an estimate of how many felony arrests Kentucky has each year is difficult to enumerate because the KSP Crime in Kentucky report does not separate arrests into felonies and misdemeanors, but instead into Part 1 (serious crimes) and Part 2 (lesser crimes). However, there are felony crimes included in the Part 2 designation.

If Kentucky chose to only solicit DNA samples from felonious arrestees, the following is a rough projection of what those

costs might be based on an estimated 60,000 felony arrests:

To process 60,000 additional samples per year would cost:

- \$240,000 for testing kits
- \$1.2 million for reagents and consumables
- \$200,000 for equipment, maintenance and repairs
- \$22,000 for an additional lab technician
- \$32,000 for one new forensic biologist to process samples

Total cost: \$1.6 million

Experts warn, though, that collecting DNA only from felon arrestees is a mistake. In 2009, Dr. Jay Siegel and Susan D. Narveson crafted a report called, "Why Arrestee DNA Legislation can Save Indiana

Taxpayers Over \$50 Million Per Year." In the report, Siegel and Narveson addressed the nature of a criminal career.

"Rarer still is the offender whose first crime is a violent felony like rape or murder," the report states. "It has been well established that the typical criminal career progresses in an escalating fashion. Criminals commonly 'cut their teeth' with less serious crimes such as petty theft or drug violations. After establishing a successful track record of getting away with these crimes without consequence, many will inevitably progress to more serious property crimes, violent crimes, sexual assaults and, eventually, even murder."

The purpose of expanding the DNA database to include arrestees or even to allow for familial searching is two fold. One, it allows law enforcement to single >>